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REMARKS

Claims 56 and 57 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of those new claims. For instance, support for the new claims appears e.g. at page 5, first full paragraph and the original claims of the application.

Claims 37-40, 45-47 and 49-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fujishima (EP 092628A2) with Rahman (U.S. Patent 6,610,465 B2) in view of Willson (U.S. Patent 6,101,445 A). The rejection is traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 37 and 47 each calls for a photoresist composition that comprises a tetrapolymer a hydroxyadamantyl moiety in combination with a polymerized norbornene group.

Such a photoresists are clearly not suggested by the cited documents.

Among other things, none of the cited documents disclose a tetrapolymer as recited in Applicants' claims 37 and 47. Indeed, in the Office Action, it is acknowledged that none of the cited documents exemplify a tetrapolymer.

Additionally, none of the cited documents the indicate that a norbornene group should be utilized with a hydroxyadamantyl group, as Applicants claim.

Willson et al. is the only document cited for a norbornene group. Nowhere does Willson et al. mention use of a hydroxyadamantyl group. None of the other cited documents mention the that a norbornene group should be used in combination with a hydroxyadamantyl group.

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Other claimed aspects of Applicants' invention also are not disclosed or otherwise suggested by the cited documents.

Thus, claims 52-55 call for a particularly preferred aspect of Applicants invention, where the photoresist composition polymer comprises at least two distinct polymerized norbornene repeat units together with a hydroxyadamantyl. See, for page 5, lines 5-6 and pages 9-10 of the application.

None of the cited documents suggest such photoresist polymers.

Claim 56 calls for a photoresist composition that comprises (a) a photoacid generator compound; and a polymer that is at least substantially free of aromatic groups and comprises a hydroxyadamantyl moiety, a lactone group, a polymerized norbornene group, and at least two distinct repeat units that each has a photoacid-labile group at least one of which are polymerized acrylate groups that comprise one or more photoacid-labile moieties.

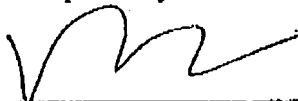
None of the cited documents suggest such a photoresist or polymer.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested. See, for instance, Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §2143.03 ("To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.")

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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